

REMARKS

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for three (3) excess total claims.

Claims 1-23 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 11-17, and 19 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 20-23 have been added to assure Applicant the degree of protection to which his invention entitles him.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 9-10 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable.

The claims have been amended to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice.

The distinguishing subject matter of allowable dependent claim 9 has been incorporated into its independent claim 1, and that subject matter has been removed from claim 9. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-19 are allowable, along with new dependent claims 20 and 21.

New independent claim 22 presents the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 13 together with that of its original independent claim 1. Thus, claim 22 is allowable.

New independent claim 23 is patterned after allowable claim 1, but is directed to the second printing unit. It distinguishes from the art for the same reasons as does claim 1. Therefore, claim 23 is also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-23, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and that the

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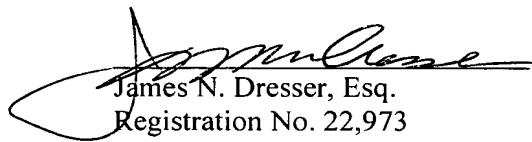
application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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